

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

An instrument for holding an intervertebral spacer,  
~~the instrument including~~ includes a shaft having a proximal end forming a handle, and a distal end forming a claw subassembly for holding ~~said~~ the spacer; said ~~said~~ the claw subassembly including a first pincer which is fixed at the distal end of the shaft and a second pincer which is selectively rotateable into and out of spacer holding association with said first pincer to hold and release, respectively, the spacer; and. The instrument includes an actuation mechanism for selectively rotating the second pincer., wherein the first and second pincers have opposing curved surfaces that extend to a distal end of the instrument.